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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Poland

SUBJECT Polish Border Guards (W.O.P.)

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1. The following report contains a breakdown of the Polish Border Guard (W.O.P.). WOP is currently one of the main departments of the Ministry for State Security (MBP). Chief of the department and of WOP is Col. (fnu) Grabowski.
2. The WOP is divided into 12 brigades. A brigade is composed of five battalions and about 3,500 officers and men. Each battalion of about 500-550 officers and men is responsible for 25 border points.
3. The 12 brigades have headquarters at the following places:
 - a. Luban, Lower Silesia
 - b. Krosno Arzanska
 - c. Szczecin
 - d. Koszalin
 - e. Wreszcz-Gdansk
 - f. Elblag, East Prussia
 - g. Bialystok
 - h. Chelm Lubelski
 - i. Krosno k. Rzeszowa
 - j. Nowy Sacz
 - k. Gliwice
 - l. Wlodzko, Upper Silesia
4. A brigade staff is organized as follows:
 - a. Brigade chief
 - b. Chief of Staff
 - c. Operations Section (Seksja operatywna)
 - d. Education Section (Seksja wyszkolenia)
 - e. Personnel Section (Seksja personalna)
 - f. Sub-section I:
 - i. Border intelligence and counter-intelligence section (wywiad graniczny i kontrwywiad)
 - ii. Investigation section (seksja sledcza)
 - iii. Jails

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- v. Military Prosecutor (Prokurator)
- v. Section for Border Crossing-points and Border Disputes
(sekcja punktów przejściowych i konfliktów granicznych)
- g. Sub-section for Information (Wydział Informacyjny):
 - i. Chief
 - ii. Two assistants
 - iii. Two officer-investigators
 - iv. platoon of soldiers

Has its own jails, where soldiers suspected of activity against the regime are detained.
- h. Sub-section for Political Education (Wydział Polityczno-Wychowawczy recently changed to Wydział Polityczny):
 - i. Chief of Sub-section I
 - ii. Deputy Chief, Sub-section I
 - iii. Senior Instructor
 - iv. Lecturer
 - v. Officers' Chief of Personnel
- i. Armaments Service (Sluzba Uzbrojenia):
 - i. Chief
 - ii. Two Armament Officers.

Controls all armament, ammunition, and all firing-instruction instruments.
- j. Quartermaster Office:
 - i. Quartermaster
 - ii. Automotive and Fuel Section (sekcja samochodowa i materialow motorycznych)
 - iii. Clothing Section (sekcja mundurowa i skladow mundurowych)
 - iv. Food Section (sekcja zywnosciowa i magazyny zywnosciowe)
 - v. Supply Section (sekcja taborowa)
 - vi. Finance Section (sekcja finansowa)
 - vii. Quarters Section (sekcja kwaterekowo - budowlana)
- k. Sub-section for Health:
 - i. Chief
 - ii. One senior doctor
 - iii. Two junior doctors.

Provides ambulance and field hospital service.
- l. Veterinary Section (Sekcja Weterynarna).
- m. Sub-section for Communications (Wydział Łączności):
 - i. radio section
 - ii. telephone section
- n. Additional units attached to a WOP Brigade Staff:
 - i. Communications Company: 70-80 soldiers
 - ii. Supply Company: 66 soldiers
 - iii. Administrative Company: 70-80 soldiers
 - iv. Information Platoon
 - v. Guard-house Platoon: to detain apprehended border-crossers
 - vi. Dog Service Platoon
 - vii. Training Battalion: six companies of 36 soldiers each*.

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5. A battalion is organized as follows:
 - a. Battalion Chief
 - b. Battalion Chief of Staff
 - c. Assistant Chief of Staff
 - d. Assistant Chief for Political Affairs
 - e. Information Officer
 - f. Intelligence section (Chief and an assistant)
 - g. Quartermaster:
 - i. Two food and clothing officers
 - ii. Finance officer
 - iii. Armament officer
 - iv. Milling officer
 - h. Health Service:
 - i. Senior Doctor
 - ii. Junior Doctor with an ambulance
 - iii. Veterinary
 - i. Communications Officer
 - j. Additional units attached to a battalion:
 - i. A guard platoon: One officer, four NCO's, 24 soldiers
 - ii. Communications Platoon: One officer, six NCO's, 30 soldiers
 - iii. Administrative Platoon: One officer, eight NCO's, 30 soldiers.**
6. Each border point (straznice) is manned as follows:
 - a. Chief officer
 - b. Second officer: in charge of border intelligence
 - c. Eight NCO's: One in charge, two for communications, four assigned to guard groups, one conducting (sic) NCO.***
7. One border point command may be responsible for a sector of five to eight kilometers, depending upon the terrain. A patrol consists of two guardsmen who are on duty four hours. During one shift there are four to six patrols on duty. The particular sector of each patrol is kept secret until immediately before the guards go on duty. In addition to the regular patrols, there are alert and ambush points (czujki i zasadzki) placed a little behind the border. If the border is not a river or sea, a dog on a lead accompanies the patrol.****
8. There are special WOP units consisting of two or three officers and 16 men assigned to various authorized border crossing points. Their job is to check travelers' documents and luggage, railway carriages, locomotives, and automobiles as they cross.
9. WOP officers are trained at the Centrum Wyszukolenia WOP. The dogs the WOP uses are trained at the Centralny Zarzad Tresury Psow Granicznych, at Runowo, Woj. Koszalinskie.

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Comment: Soldiers are usually trained between May and September. When their training is completed, they are usually sworn in and assigned to border guard duty. 1951 swearing-in ceremonies were held between 20 September and 1 October, but the new guards were not immediately assigned to border duty. They received instead instruction in night and street-fighting; on 16 October 1951, they were assigned as replacements for WOP guards who were being demobilized. The new men replaced a group who had been told shortly before the expiration of their two-year term that they would be required to serve an additional year. This order did not materialize.

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** - Comment: Four of these NCO's are in charge of supply stores.

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*** Comment: The conducting NCO is thought to be assigned to the changing of the guard.

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**** - Comment: Otherwise dogs are kept at battalion headquarters only.

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